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FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

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NOTES ON THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

The founders of American independence, in framing the constitution of the United States, reversed, from necessity, the principles upon which military establishments had been founded for ages. They decreed that the power of declaring war, and of creating the means of offence and defence, should be placed in the hands of Congress. The military force of the confederation thus became the offspring of popular legislation. Jealousy of military power has always been a practical feeling in America. Its influence was felt by the colonies before the rupture with the parent state, and was among the exciting causes of the rebellion; and it required all the difficulties, and even occasional desperation of the struggle, to restrain it from embarrassing every measure of the war. The provisional Congress, however, was often compelled to abandon its narrow prejudices, when the fate of their cause was in jeopardy, and once or twice confided to General Washington an almost dictatorial power.

The war of the Revolution ended in 1783; and in April, 1785, the military establishment of the United States was fixed at one regiment of infantry and two companies of artillery, or about 800 men. The causes of this abandonment of the means of self protection, were the exhausted condition of the country, and that absurd policy which regards soldiers as useless, and even dangerous, when not required for immediate service. This establishment was, however, quickly discovered to be too small for a state, whose most important relations were still unsettled, and with a host of unquiet and formidable neighbors upon its interior frontiers; for the Indians, it will be recollected, did not bury the tomahawk at the pacification, which terminated the revolution; it was therefore augmented, at the expiration of two years, by 700 men. At this standard the military establishment remained until 1790, when, under the new constitution then enacted, it was fixed at one regiment of infantry and one battalion of artillery, embracing 1,216 men. The President was, at the same time, authorized to call into service such militia, for the defence of the frontiers, as he might deem necessary. In 1791, the establishment was again increased by the addition of another regiment of infantry, and the President was empowered to raise 2,000 *levies*, as they were termed, in lieu of the militia he had before been authorized to call out. In 1792, the infantry was still further augmented by three additional regiments; one of which was so organized as to embrace a squadron of four troops of light dragoons. In 1794, 800 men were added to the artillery, which was thenceforward to be styled the Corps of Artillerists and Engineers. The battalion had hitherto been under the command of a Major; a Lieutenant Colonel, four Majors, and sixteen Captains were now placed in authority over the newly-formed corps. These several additions to the establishment fixed in 1790, formed a force of about 6,000 men.

Our readers who are familiar with the American history of that period, will recollect that it was one of constant and increasing hostility with the Indians, and that a considerable part of the frontiers was unprotected, and not unfrequently drenched with the blood of the settlers. President Washington, at each session of Congress, reiterated his strong and eloquent representations of the existing state of things,

and urged the necessity of investing the Executive with power to protect the defenceless, and chastise those whom he deemed the aggressors. Washington has somewhere said, that "The devising of a well regulated militia would be a genuine source of legislative honor, and a perfect title to public gratitude." With the lesson of the Revolution on his mind, he often earnestly renewed his recommendations to Congress, to turn their attention to this important subject, while they "were able to avail themselves of the military knowledge disseminated throughout the several States by means of the many well-instructed officers and soldiers of the late army." In 1790 Gen. Knox, the Secretary of War, presented a plan to Congress relating to the militia, but could not induce that assembly to adopt it; and it was not until 1792 that there was any successful legislation on this subject. An act was then passed, "more effectually to provide for the national defence, by establishing a uniform militia throughout the United States," the provisions of which still form the basis of the militia system. This act required, with certain exceptions, "every free able bodied *white* male citizen of the respective States," between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, to be enrolled; and, prescribing the mode of enrollment, formed a broad and simple outline of organization, which the co-operation of the State laws could easily fulfil. It further required every man so enrolled "to provide himself, within six months," with arms and equipments. An Adjutant General was directed to be appointed in each State, in order to collect all returns and reports, and present them annually in a consolidated form to both State and General Governments. These, together with a mode of discipline, which has been subsequently changed and assimilated to that of the regular army, were the principal provisions of the first militia act, and are yet the basis * of that now in existence. The mode of carrying it into operation was, of course, left to the State legislatures.

While Congress was thus laying the foundation of a national militia, a distrustful and improvident policy still pervaded it as respects the regular army, which, perceiving no danger so great as that which might arise from placing an army at the disposal of the Executive, dealt out the means of defence with such a sparing hand, that it was not until two abortive campaigns against the Indians, and two or three signal defeats, had shown the irresistible necessity of more vigorous measures, that the President was enabled to bring the war to a successful close. The general European war now broke out, and the might of the British navy admonished the Americans that they were vulnerable by sea-board. The President was accordingly directed, in March, 1794, to fortify twenty principal ports on the coast, and to establish three or four arsenals, with magazines and armories connected with them. This was accordingly done, and 350 pieces of ordnance distributed among the fortifications.

In May, 1796, the military establishment was again fixed, embracing the corps of artillerists and engineers, at two companies of light dragoons and four regiments of infantry, or about 3,000 men; and at this standard it continued throughout the remainder of Washington's presidency. The general commotion in Europe alarmed the Congress, and, converting it from its previous niggardly and mistrustful policy, obliged it to place greater confidence in the

* The arms of the militia are, we believe, now provided by the General Government from the national armories.

Executive. Accordingly, the presidency of Mr. Adams was marked, from its commencement, by frequent and extensive augmentations of the military force. In April, 1798, an additional regiment of artillery and engineers was raised; and, in the following month, the President was invested with power to raise, during the recess of Congress, 10,000 men for the term of three years, and to accept of any company or companies of volunteers which might be offered for service. This latter authority incontestably proves the confidence of Congress in the Executive, as it was almost equivalent to a power commensurate with the force of the entire militia, provided a spirit of volunteering were generally prevalent. About a year after this, the President was conditionally authorized, to use the inverted phraseology of the act, "to organize and cause to be raised" an additional military force, to consist of twenty-four regiments of infantry, one regiment and one battalion of riflemen, a battalion of artillery and engineers, and three regiments of cavalry. But the spirit of distrust was again insinuating itself into the legislature, and the same act limited the number of volunteers, which could be accepted by the President, to 75,000. The amount of force, including regulars and militia and volunteers, which President Adams was, under certain exigencies,* empowered to raise, exceeded considerably 100,000 men.

The difficulties which existed with France, and which had principally given rise to these preparations, were adjusted in 1800, when the army was reduced to four regiments of infantry, two regiments of artillery and engineers, and two troops of light dragoons. Again, in 1802, under the pacific auspices with which Mr. Jefferson began his administration, the military establishment was still further diminished, being fixed at one regiment of artillery, two regiments of infantry, and a corps of engineers. "We keep in service," said Jefferson, in a letter† to Kosciusko, dated April 2, 1802, in answer to an application from that illustrious man for military employment for some brother refugees, "no more men than enough to garrison the small posts dispersed at great distances on our frontiers, which garrisons will generally consist of a captain's company only, and in no case of more than two or three, in not one of a sufficient number to require a field officer; and no circumstances whatever can bring these garrisons together, because it would be an abandonment of their forts." The same law which reduced the military establishment, consolidated the artillery into one regiment; having one Colonel, one Lieutenant Colonel, four Majors and twenty Captains; formed the engineers into a separate corps, and stationed them at West Point, where they were constituted a military academy, thus laying the foundation of an excellent institution, now flourishing with credit and usefulness.

No change was made in the force of the military establishment from 1802 until nearly the close of Mr. Jefferson's presidency. In April, 1808, the disputes with this country having assumed a serious appearance, an additional military force was authorized, to consist of five regiments of infantry, one regiment of light artillery, and one regiment of light dragoons, augmenting the establishment already on foot by about 6,000. "depending always," said Jefferson,‡ "on our militia for the operations of the first year of war." The cost of the establishment so increased was about 2,400,000 dollars. The act creating this augmentation contained a clause, which required that every officer appointed under it should "be a

citizen of the United States, or one of the territories thereof." Previous to this time, many foreign officers had been introduced into the American service, some of whom had not taken the oath of allegiance. In consequence of a temporary arrangement with Mr. Erskine, the British minister at Washington, the recruiting under this act was suspended about a year afterwards, and was not renewed until within six months before the declaration of war. Shortly after this renewal, early in 1812, Congress passed an act, authorizing an additional military force of 25,000 men, to consist of ten regiments of infantry, two regiments of artillery, and one regiment of light dragoons. The two regiments of artillery, levied under this act, differed from the one already in existence, in having two Lieutenant Colonels each, and only two Majors; but in 1814, the three regiments again changed their forms, and were united in a corps, having six Lieutenant Colonels, six Majors, and forty-eight Captains. In the beginning of 1813, twenty additional regiments of infantry, or 20,000 men, were authorized; and, in the beginning of 1814, three additional regiments of riflemen. At the last period, the artillery again changed its form, and became a corps, having six Lieutenant Colonels, six Majors, and forty-eight Captains. No further augmentations were made to the regular force during the war.

It would appear, from the foregoing statement, that the nominal regular force on foot, during what the Americans call "the war of 1812," was between 60,000 and 70,000. It is not, however, probable, that the establishment was ever effectively complete. The recruiting service held out powerful inducements to enlist, the bounties having been enlarged, until the recruit, besides his monthly pay of eight dollars, was offered fifty dollars when enlisted, an additional fifty when mustered, and twenty-four dollars and 320 acres of land at the expiration of his term of service. The enlistment was for five years, or during the war. The widow, child, or parent of any person enlisted, who was killed or died in the service, was to be entitled to receive the same bounty in land. These tempting baits were rapidly swallowed; but the pressing exigencies of the war, transferring the raw soldier immediately from the rendezvous to the scene of action, left no time for the operation of that preliminary discipline, which gives cohesion and efficiency to a body of men. Hence battalions, which marched from the rendezvous complete as to numbers, before they reached the frontiers were often reduced, by desertions, to meagre detachments.

A question of vital importance to the military defence of the Union arose during this war, as to the militia law, which is too important to be omitted here. The value of a militia, let us observe *en passant*, in a country where the demand for labor is large and wages high, and, consequently, where there is every difficulty in the way of voluntary and unpaid enlistment into a regular army, cannot be too highly estimated. It is, in point of fact, on the militia that the early hardships of every American war must press, and the standing troops must, in the first instance, be merely subsidiary to it. The American constitution enacts, sec. viii., that the Congress shall have the power "to provide for the calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions." No sooner had war been proclaimed in 1812, than the President called on the governments of the States to place their respective militias at the disposal of the General Government. The States of Connecticut and Massachusetts were required to despatch detachments of their militia to the maritime frontiers, but they refused to comply with the demand. The objection of these States to respond to the demand was, that it belonged to the Governors of the several States to determine when any of the exigencies contemplated by the constitution of the United States existed, so as to require them to place the militia in the service

* A statement of these exigencies would require explanation, and lead us more into the then political situation of the United States, than is consistent with our present object.

† Correspondence, vol. iv. p. 115.

‡ Jefferson's Correspondence, vol. iii. p. 498.

of the Union, and under the command of the President. A different construction would, it was asserted place all the militia, in effect, at the will of the Congress, and produce, what it was one object of the constitution to avoid, a military consolidation of the States. The Governor of Massachusetts, on consulting the Judges of the Supreme Judicial Court on this interesting point, received their implied sanction to his construction, which the President designated as "novel and unfortunate." He also justly observed in his message to Congress, in November, 1812, that if the authority of the United States to call into service and command the militia could be thus frustrated, they were not one nation, for the purpose most of all requiring it. Neither party would give way, and this embarrassing question remained unsettled until 1827, when the Supreme Court* of the United States solemnly decided, that it belonged exclusively to the President to judge when the exigency arises, and that his decision was conclusive.

Peace was ratified with Great Britain in February, 1815, at which time the American regular army was 32,160 strong, exclusive of commissioned officers, distributed thus: infantry, 25,174; artillery, 3,467; riflemen, 1,818; dragoons, 1,001; and light artillery, 673. During the war, each regiment of infantry consisted of 18 companies, of 100 privates each, and formed two battalions; the artillery regiments were composed of 20 companies, of 72 privates each; the rifle regiments of 10 companies of 90 privates; the dragoon regiments of 12 companies of 80 privates; and the light artillery was formed into one corps, and organized into 12 battalions, each battalion being composed of 48 companies. The estimates laid before Congress for the establishment of 1815, which it was proposed to increase to 62,000 men, were 29,400,000 dollars. The militia of the United States, liable to be called out during the late war, rather exceeded in number 700,000. By the last general returns it is estimated at 1,333,091.

Among the first objects which engaged the attention of Congress, after the termination of the war, was the reduction of the army to the standard of peace. The war, it will be recollected, had disturbed nearly all the Indian tribes on the interior frontier, and most of them were actively engaged against the States. The peace with England had only nominally pacified many of our red allies. Under these considerations, the States' executive recommended that the military establishment to be reserved out of the army then on foot should be 20,000 men. Congress, however, was of opinion that such an establishment was far beyond what the necessities of the Union demanded, and determined that half the number, 10,000 men, would be sufficient. The United States was, at the same time, divided into two military divisions, and these divisions were subdivided into nine military departments. On the 19th of May, 1837, an alteration was made in the line marking the limits of the two great military divisions of the federation. This line now commences at the mouth of the Mississippi, thence proceeding up that river to Cassville, in the territory of Wisconsin; and thence north to the line of demarcation between the United States and Canada. These two divisions, denominated the eastern and western, are subdivided into seven departments, and have each a Brigadier General as commander. In 1821, the relations of the States with the Indians, as well as with European nations, having become settled, and confirmed by a peace of some duration, the same authority resolved that 6,000 men were an establishment adequate to answer all the demands of the public service, simplifying the organization by suppressing the light artillery and riflemen, corps which had served rather

to diversify than to improve the means of defence. From the period of this reduction to the present time, the military establishment of the United States has, from time to time, been slightly increased. By the last general return it is estimated at 7,958 men, of which number 648 consists of commissioned officers. It is divided into two regiments of dragoons, 1,335 strong; four regiments of artillery, 1,606 strong; seven regiments of infantry, 3,118 strong; and 1,418 recruits and unattached soldiers. This force is under the command of Major General Macomb, General-in-chief, whose headquarters are at Washington. This force is, however, susceptible of considerable enlargement, without any increase of regimental officers, or losing much of its immediate efficiency. The cost of this establishment, with the ordnance, superannuated, and all other departments connected with the service, averages about 4,000,000 dollars. The American army is assigned for the protection of the maritime and interior frontiers. The artillery is necessarily broken up into small detachments, corresponding with the number of fortifications. The dragoons infantry is chiefly stationed on the interior frontier; and, as the Indians are held in check better by a few large bodies than by many detachments, they are now more concentrated. The policy of Mr. Calhoun, in advancing far within the Indian country the cordon of posts, has, we believe, been generally followed by his successors in the War Department.

During the last war with England, it cannot be denied that the American army labored under some disadvantages which now no longer exist. At that time, it may be said, there was no established system, either of tactics, discipline, or administration. Steuben's work, the Manual of the Revolution, had been suffered to sink into disuse, and its place had been supplied by a selection from more modern systems, as suited the taste or caprice of the officers. The regulations were *lex non scripta*, founded only on usages or orders which were no longer accessible. Thus the officers of regiments raised in 1812, were left almost entirely to conjecture as to every point of duty. Two attempts were made early in the war to introduce new systems of infantry tactics, both of which appear to have been only partially successful. A resolution passed Congress, early in 1813, "requiring a military system of discipline for the infantry of the army and the militia of the United States" to be prepared. A board of officers was constituted, which compiled a system of *Infantry Tactics*, from the most modern and approved works, which was adopted, and which, as revised in 1824, is now, we believe, the guide of the army. The artillery was, however, still, and always had been, without any established guide; and there was no system of general police and regulation. Both these deficiencies were supplied in 1821. A *Treatise on Artillery*, by Gen. Lallemand, was then adopted by the President for the service of the United States; and, during the same year, a *System of General Regulations* was compiled by Major General Scott, from the English and French services, which has since been enforced throughout the army. In 1825, Mr. Trueman Cross compiled and published, under the authority of the War Department, *The Military Laws of the United States*, a volume which contains a complete code of its army legislation, from the commencement of the Government down to that time. We do not venture at present to express an opinion, as to how far these systems are calculated to produce uniformity and efficiency; they have, doubtless, in many respects, been subsequently improved; but no one can glance over the military laws, without being struck with the want of regularity and congruity, which prevails throughout the army legislation of the United States.

There were, down to within the last few years, in the Union, two national armories, and twelve national arsenals. Whether there may have been

* The reader who desires more minute information on this subject may refer to Kent's Commentaries on American Law, vol. i. p. 262, edit. 1832.

others lately instituted we are not aware ; but those that we refer to are still in existence. The armories are at Springfield, Massachusetts, and at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. The arsenals are at Watertown, Massachusetts ; Waterlivet and Rome, New York ; Baltimore, Maryland ; Washington, District of Columbia ; Richmond, Virginia ; Augusta, Georgia ; Frankford and Pittsburg, Penn. ; Baton Rouge, Louisiana ; and Detroit, Michigan territory. Arms and accoutrements are manufactured at the two armories ; accoutrements, gun carriages, &c., are also made at several of the arsenals, while some of them are merely used as depots. There are, we believe, no public foundries for casting ordnance, the supply being obtained from private establishments. Lead is obtained in ample quantities from the public mines.

Previous to the Revolution, Great Britain had paid little attention to the fortifications of her maritime frontier in America. When that event broke out, the continental Congress quickly felt the necessity of an increased maritime defence ; and, early in 1776, a committee of that body was appointed "to consider of the fortifying one or more posts on the American coast, in the strongest manner." Whatever number of posts might have been erected in consequence of this resolution, few of them remained at the close of the war ; for, before the peace, the British navy had made its way into every important harbor except Boston.

In 1794, the seaboard continuing naked, acts were passed by Congress, directing the principal ports of the United States to be fortified, under the direction of the President, and as he might judge necessary. The want of means precluded the working out of this intention effectually, and a few imperfect and perishable works, for the protection of the principal seaports, were the only results of this legislation. Ten years elapsed before the attention of Congress was again directed to the subject of fortifications. In the beginning of 1808, an appropriation of one million of dollars was made, to enable the President to repair and finish such works as had already been completed or begun, and to erect others. Under this act, most of the harbors of any importance in the United States were fortified. But, as the works had been deferred until the moment of urgent necessity, they were generally planned without much regard to the rules of fortification, and without any view of a general system of defence, and were hastily constructed of perishable materials. These fortifications, however, imperfect and insufficient as they were, afforded considerable protection to the country during the subsequent war ; but, after its conclusion, they mostly fell into a state of dilapidation, or were kept from falling into that state by frequent and expensive repairs.

Soon after peace had been established, a plan of surveys was settled and put in operation by Congress. It embraced a complete examination of the coast, so far as it could enter into a general system of national defence. Each harbor or bay was accurately and deliberately explored, in regard of its capacity for defence both by land and water ; all the advantages and disadvantages of localities were attentively compared ; the magnitude of both the immediate and remote interests to be protected was brought into consideration ; and afterwards the whole combined into one view in order to produce a general result. Upon these surveys and calculations, a general system of national defence was formed, which was submitted to Congress in 1819-20, approved, and an immediate appropriation was made for its commencement. Much of these reports has been published, but those parts which would be invaluable to an enemy have, of course, been withheld.

In one series of these reports,* Burwell's bay, in

* Engineers' reports presented to Congress in 1819, 1820, and 1821.

James river, and Charlestown, near Boston, were recommended as the most proper sites for the great naval arsenals of the south and of the north. Hampton and Boswell roads as the chief rendezvous, and Narraganset bay as an indispensable accessory to Boston road. Mobile bay, on the Gulf of Mexico, St. Mary's, in the Chesapeake, the Delaware, New York bay, Buzzard's bay, New London, Marblehead, Portsmouth, Portland, the mouths of the Kennebec and Penobscot, and Mount Desert bay, were fixed on as stations and ports of refuge.

The works proposed by the plan were divided into three classes. Those which were embraced in the first class were recommended to be commenced as soon as possible, and to be completed as fast as the resources of the country would admit. They were twelve in number, constituting the cardinal points of the defence, "to prevent an enemy from establishing himself, by means of a navy, in any strong position;" they included Boston, Newport, New York, the river Delaware, the Chesapeake, Mobile, the mouths of the Mississippi, and some ports in North Carolina. The second class included twenty works, which were recommended not to be commenced until a later period, probably not until those of the first class were completed. The third class embraced seven works, to be postponed to a still more remote period. To these, a fourth class was subsequently proposed "containing such works as would be necessary only conditionally." Of the works proposed in the second class, some were only subsidiary to those of the first class, intended to render them more effectual : others were of an independent character, such as those which are to be at the mouths of the Potomac and of the Patapsco ; those on the coast of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maine.

The estimated expense of completing the proposed system of fortifications, was about seventeen millions of dollars. They were immediately commenced, and are in a course of gradual completion, their progress being regulated by the resources of the country, and the necessity of a careful and proper execution. The Delta of the Mississippi, and the work on Mobile Point, forming a subsidiary part of the same point, were the earliest objects of attention, and worthily so, when we reflect how intimately these fortifications are connected with the protection of New Orleans, and the multitudinous interests attached to its safety. The other works belonging to the first class, also claiming early attention, were those which defend Hampton Roads, New York, and the harbor of New Port. For these, and other national works of the same description, Congress has annually, not, however, without opposition, appropriated sums varying from 400,000 to 600,000 dollars ; and, under the direction of its engineers, the map of the United States is dotted with fortifications, such as Fort Adams, at Benton's Point ; Fort Hamilton, New Utrecht Point ; Fort Monroe, Old Point Comfort ; Fort Calhoun, Rip Rap Shoal ; Fort Jackson, at Clacquemine Bend ; Fort Macon, Bogue Point, &c., &c.

Our readers who have been accustomed to observe the progress, and reflect upon the tendency of the United States' institutions, have doubtless remarked the rapid progress of the Military Academy at West Point, in the public estimation of the Union. It is now one of its most favored establishments. The comprehensive mind of Washington first suggested the necessity of an establishment, where a portion of the youth of his country might be constantly employed in acquiring such fundamental knowledge as is generally esteemed indispensable for the attainment of much proficiency in the science of modern warfare. The views of Mr. Adams were in harmony with those of Gen. Washington on this subject, but circumstances prevented their consummation during the administration of either ; nor was

this finally accomplished until Mr. Jefferson was placed at the head of the Government. Under his fostering care this seminary was first organized, though on a plan differing considerably from the existing one, and much more limited in its objects and operations. It was not, however, until 1817 or 1818 that the principal improvements were introduced, and the academy assumed that interior arrangement as to classification, discipline, division of studies, &c., which has since given it a high character for utility, and made admission into it a matter of competition.

The number of its cadets is limited by law to 260, and each State is entitled to have one cadet always at the academy from each of its Congressional districts. The aggregate of the quotas of the States being but 213, there remain more than forty vacancies, which are usually filled by young gentlemen from the territories of Columbia, by sons of officers of the army and navy, and other persons selected by the President and Secretary of War.

The general object of the West Point Academy, "to furnish to the army a supply of efficient officers; to the militia an intermixture of well trained citizens, qualified on emergency to discipline that last and best arm of republics; to internal improvements a corps of engineers, capable of giving wholesome direction to the spirit of enterprise which pervades our country."* To realize these expectations, the following is a cursory view of the subjects embraced in its course of study.

The first year is devoted entirely to the French language and mathematics, "in each of which there is a daily recitation." During the second year, mathematical studies are attended to every day, and French three times a week, the other days being partially devoted to copying, with crayon, models of the human figure. The mathematical and French courses are completed in the two first years. The former course consists of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, surveying, descriptive geometry, the principles of shades, shadows, and perspective, analytical geometry, conic sections, and the integral and differential calculus. These subjects occupy about three-fourths of the students' time for two years, and, says the report of visitors for 1830, "appears a pursuit of somewhat all-engrossing character. To a certain extent mathematics are indispensable, and must occupy much time; but, beyond that universal test, utility, we think they ought to give place to studies of equal importance."

The third year is devoted to the various branches of natural philosophy and chemistry, and to the completion of the course of drawing. The afternoons of about half this year are employed in copying sketches of landscapes, &c., and the remainder in the copying of topographical drawings. Connected with this topic, the report we have already quoted remarks: "An astonishing proficiency in drawing proves that no ordinary praise is due in that department; but its character is entirely civil, and confined to the imitation of pictures and models. Is it not essential that military surveyors should be accustomed to sketch nature readily and accurately?"

Thus far every thing is but preliminary. The main object of the institution is to qualify the pupil for the performance of all the duties of a military life; and, by way of preparation, he is carefully disciplined in the various duties of a soldier and an officer, "from the handling of a musket to the commanding of armies." The use of the various instruments of attack and defence; the construction of military works, both permanent and temporary, and the most approved methods of attacking and defending these works; the manner of conducting the marches of armies, and of disposing of the different

arms, with a view to their mutual protection and assistance in cases of emergency; minor tactics, or the evolutions of troops, whether in small or large bodies; and the more exalted and complicated principles of grand tactics, or *strategy*, are each in turn carefully attended to, so far as theory and the lessons of experience extend.

Besides these military subjects, studies of a different nature are made to engage a large portion of the pupil's attention during the fourth and last year. Civil engineering, in its multifarious compartments, viz: the construction of roads, canals, bridges, and railroads, together with the elements of carpentry and architecture, holds an important rank. Rhetoric, and national and constitutional law, added to the studies we have enumerated, embrace the chief objects of attention at this institution. The academy possesses an excellent library, embracing the most approved works, French and English, connected with the object of the institution.

The number of cadets who, having graduated, annually leave the academy, is, we believe, about forty, of whom as many as are required for the immediate necessities of the service, receive commissions in the order in which they stand, on what is termed the roll of merit. The others are discharged, having received diplomas as testimonials of their character and standing.

An annual examination of the students takes place, to which a number of gentlemen, distinguished for political and scientific attainments, are invited; and they make a detailed report of their impressions concerning the institution to the Secretary of War. Some of these reports are full of most unqualified encomium; indeed, they are almost universally favorable to the utility of the establishment.

In despite of the general popularity of the West Point Academy, there are many who profess to believe it not only useless, but absolutely injurious in its effects upon the public interests. Some oppose it on the abstract ground, that genius and courage alone are enough to ensure distinction in the military profession, more especially in a country of which every citizen is a soldier, forgetful of what their countryman, Hamilton, well remarked, that "war, like most other things, is a science to be acquired and perfected by diligence, by perseverance, by time, and by practice." Others object to it on specific and internal grounds, into which it would be idle here to enter. It may have faults, but the advantages derived from it are great, and will, doubtless, be permanent.

About the year 1824, Mr. Calhoun established an artillery school of practice at Fort Monroe, Old Point Comfort, Virginia, for the purpose of practically instructing the four regiments of artillery, successively, through a course of two years, in all the duties belonging to that branch. This establishment, like most of Mr. Calhoun's plans, had great utility in view; but sufficient attention, it was then stated, had not been paid to preliminary details, and the local situation of the school was also said to have been chosen, or, at least, occupied prematurely.

In the foregoing sketch we have avoided any, but merely incidental, remarks on the militia of the United States. We trust hereafter to have an opportunity of laying some observations, on that department of the military force of the Union, before our readers, as well as of entering somewhat into detail on other matters which at present we have only glanced at.

EXPERIMENTAL SUBTERRANEAN AND SUB-AQUEOUS EXPLOSIONS AT CHATHAM BY THE VOLTAIC BATTERY.—For several months past the Royal Engineers at Chatham, under Colonel Pasley, have been trying experiments in firing gunpowder by the Voltaic battery, chiefly under water; and,

* Report of the Board of Visitors of the Military Academy at West Point, in June, 1830.

after many vicissitudes of partial success and of failure, they have at last succeeded in bringing this process to as much perfection as it seems capable of—that is, to as much certainty as the former method of firing mines in dry soil. They have repeatedly fired gunpowder at the distance of 500 feet, with their conducting wires either buried under ground or led entirely under water, excepting a few feet connected with the battery, which, in their subaqueous explosions, was in a boat on the Medway, the powder being lodged at the bottom of that river. In their subterraneous explosion they blew up a field work, and in one of their subaqueous experiments they blew to pieces a vessel representing a wreck, the fragments of which, being of fir timber, came up to the surface of the Medway immediately after the column of water thrown up by the explosion. On Saturday last they applied their Voltaic battery to the blasting of a rock under water. Two very large and heavy pieces of hard sandstone were each prepared with a hole three inches in diameter, by a borer, after which a charge of three-quarters of a pound of gunpowder was put into each, and the upper part of the hole was tamped by pouring in small fragments of broken stone round a cone fixed over each charge, in a new and ingenious manner, first suggested by Mr. Howe, clerk of the works of the Royal Engineer Establishment, more than five years ago, which does not seem inferior in resistance to the common mode of tamping, but is much safer and far more expeditious. The conducting wires were led from each charge to the battery, which was placed on the gun-wharf, whilst the stones, thus prepared and loaded, were lowered down from a crane to the bottom of the river opposite, where the water was fourteen feet deep at the time. The first stone, being of compact form, was blown to pieces, and the rope sling by which it had been lowered, and which had not been removed, was broken. The second stone, being of a more irregular shape, and much thinner, so that there was not sufficient resistance above and below the charge, was brought up by the crane after the explosion, which had only blown out the solid part of the stone below the bottom of the hole, apparently without injuring any other part of it. Another charge was therefore placed in the same hole, which was tamped both above and below in the mode before described, and the stone was then again let down to the bottom of the river, and after firing this second charge, on being hauled up by the crane, it was found to have been broken into three parts, one of which did not reach the surface, whilst the other two, being still held together by the slings, after being raised nearly to the level of the wharf, separated from each other and fell to the bottom. One of these charges was contained in a tin cylinder, fitted to the size of the hole, the two others in canvass bags of the same form, covered with water-proof composition. These last experiments, which, like several of the former, were witnessed by a great number of spectators, chiefly military, have proved that the Voltaic battery may succeed for blasting rock under water, as well as for blowing wrecks to pieces, and in the former supposition, the holes in the rock would be formed and the charges placed by means of the diving-bell. The results of this course of experiments may be of great importance, especially for defensive military mines, because the Voltaic battery affords the only possible means of firing several such mines, not only instantaneously but simultaneously, and at the very moment when an enemy's column, advancing to the assault, is over the very spot where these mines have been prepared; whereas, by the common mode of firing military mines, by a piece of portfire or slow match connected to a powder hose, there can be no certainty of their taking effect at the precise moment required, so that the enemy's troops might either have passed over, or not yet reached the spot, at the period of explosion; and the simultaneous

explosion of conjunct mines, by this method, is out of the question, for no two pieces of portfire or powder hoses, though cut to the same length, were ever known to burn exactly alike. For subaqueous explosions, the superiority of the Voltaic battery is still more striking—so much so, that Colonel Pasley has repeatedly declared, that if he had been possessed of the same Voltaic apparatus, and had known how to use it, last year in his operations in the Thames, it would have saved a great deal of trouble and expense. Nothing can appear easier than to fire gunpowder under water by the Voltaic battery, as exhibited in a lecture room or scientific institution; but the mode usually adopted on such occasions, of passing the conducting wires into the charge, through a cork coated with sealing-wax, and of insulating the remaining length of each wire, by enclosing it in small India-rubber tubes, is inadequate and inexpedient for practical purposes in a rapid tideway and deep water. In Colonel Pasley's experiments at Chatham, corks and sealing-wax were rejected, the former as being too weak, and the latter from being liable to crack, and India-rubber or caouchouc was also rejected, as being far too expensive; instead of which a composition of pitch, softened by bees-wax or tallow, was adopted, the remarkable efficiency of which was proved by keeping one of those experimental charges ten days under water before it was fired, when the powder was still perfectly dry. Each pair of conducting wires used in these experiments was always attached to a rope or line, previously saturated with boiling tar, to prevent it from tearing asunder the soldered joints of the wires, by its alternate contraction and expansion when wet and dry, an effect which on one occasion actually took place before the rope was so saturated. The two wires and rope were bound together by tape, and served round with hemp yarn, and in this state they had the appearance of a single rope, capable of being coiled and veered out conveniently. One of the most important points necessary, was to prevent all strain acting upon the conducting wires from without, and thereby breaking the small delicate platinum wire within the charge, which, by interrupting the circuit, would render explosion impossible. To guard against this cause of failure in the shocks to which the conducting wires may be exposed in a rapid tideway, appeared at first a very difficult task. The Voltaic battery used was of Professor Daniell's improved construction, which, from retaining its energy much longer than any former Voltaic battery, he has named the constant Voltaic battery, and which Col. Pasley found to be much superior to the best of the former constructions at least, for the peculiar purpose of firing gunpowder either under ground or under water. Sergeant-Major Jones, and the non-commissioned officers and privates who have been employed in these experiments, are now as expert in the use of this battery as can be desired, and, being artificers, they are able to make as well as to use such batteries.

It is reported that Colonel Pasley, whose interesting experiments upon blowing up wrecks, blasting rocks, &c., have excited so much attention recently, will shortly undertake the demolition of the wreck of the Royal George. The Colonel avails himself of the recent discoveries and improvements in the science of galvanism, by which sparks are now produced in the combustibles under water, by means of wires, which are brought into contact with the battery, at some distance, in a boat. The novel invention of Messrs. Jamieson and Crichton, spoken of a short time since, that of producing combustion by breaking a tube of sulphuric acid upon chlorate of potash, was used by French engineers five years ago, for firing cannon, exploding mines, &c., and successfully explained by Mr. Hay, in one of his late lectures on chemistry. This plan, too, is open to serious objection, as being highly dangerous, lest by any acci-

dent the tube should be crushed before its time, great delicacy being required in its management; whereas the plan adopted by Colonel Pasley is free from any possibility of danger.

CURIOUS EXPERIMENT.—We have been favored with the following particulars of some experiments on firing gunpowder under water by the voltaic battery, tried on Saturday last at Chatham:—1. A rough fire vessel, 5 feet long, 3½ feet wide, and 2½ feet deep, was previously sunk opposite the Gun wharf, to represent the wreck of a ship, having a ring and lines attached to it, which are supposed to be placed by a diver after the vessel has been sunk. 2. A charge of 40 lbs. of powder was let down from a boat and hauled into close contact with the supposed wreck, by means of the lines and ring above mentioned. The coil containing the conducting wires, one-fifth of an inch in diameter, by which this charge was fired, was veered out to its whole length of 500 feet, from the same boat. 3. On the signal being given, from the boat by a bugle, to denote that all was ready, the signal to fire was made, also by the bugle. The explosion succeeded admirably. A column of water was thrown up by it, and the fragments of the vessel came up to the surface. 4. Three charges, each of 5 lbs. of powder, were sunk at the distance of about 30 or 40 feet from each other, opposite to the Gun wharf, having a pair of connecting wires, 150 feet long, attached to each. The ends of these wires were soldered together by threes, and brought to the two poles of the voltaic battery, which had previously been removed from the boat after the first operation, and placed on the wharf, by which the charges were fired simultaneously, after two bugle sounds, as before. Two of the three charges were exploded simultaneously, and the third was prevented from doing so by a fracture in one of the conducting wires. The battery used was of Professor Daniell's improved construction. The wires in the last experiment were common copper bell-wires, about a 16th of an inch in diameter, which were only used from not having any more of the former description. The experiments succeeded perfectly, and to the great delight of thousands of spectators. As we stated in our last, they were preparatory to blowing to pieces the wreck of the Royal George, at Spithead, sunk in 1782, and which has a number of very valuable brass guns, of large calibre, on board her, all of which will be recovered after the demolition of the wreck.—*English paper.*

ROYAL ARSENAL, WOOLWICH.—There has been much bustle and activity displayed here lately, getting the necessary *matériel* ready, preparatory for the artillery experiments that are shortly to take place on the Sandwich Flats. A large quantity of 18lbs., 24lbs., and 32lbs. rockets have been made expressly for this purpose. The guns to be experimented upon are old ones, of various sizes, which have been re-bored, making the calibre larger; heavier charges will therefore be used with ordnance of less weight of metal. A newly invented flexible shell tube, which, when ignited, cannot be extinguished until the whole is exhausted, will be tested; the one now in use is liable to be extinguished by the sudden "dash" when the shell comes in contact with water, which, in such instances, renders it comparatively useless from its non-explosion; this improvement is the invention of Mr. James Marsh, of the medical department of this establishment, an occasional assistant to Prof. Faraday. He is also the inventor of that invaluable apparatus for the detection of poison by arsenic, for which the Society of Arts recently awarded their large gold medal. An order has been received for four millions of musket cartridges for Canada. A new method for moulding musket balls by hydraulic pressure, instead of casting as at present, will, it is said, shortly be adopted.

GARRISON OF PARIS.—The effective force of the garrison of Paris, according to the *National*, is shortly to be increased by a regiment of cavalry. This reinforcement is turgent. Its necessity has been shown, we are told, not by the official administration of the War Department, which is forbidden to interfere in any but matters connected with accounts and correspondence, but by the grand military council sitting at the chateau. All the barracks at the capital, adds the *National*, are crammed with soldiers from top to bottom; the old ones, as well as those constructed since 1830, and the extensive fabrics lately purchased for the same purpose, are already inadequate for the accommodation of the garrison. It would be, in consequence, difficult to provide lodgings for this reinforcement of cavalry. But the Pavillon Marsan cavalierly solves difficulties of this kind, and decided that Paris should be blessed with a new barrack. "At this rate," continues the *National*, "Paris will shortly absorb the whole army of the interior. Every year the effective force of the troops charged with its safe keeping augments in an incredible proportion. There are at present within its walls 23 battalions of infantry, three entire regiments of cavalry, four batteries of artillery, two companies of veterans, and the horse and foot municipal guards; that is to say, at least 17,000 bayonets, 2,000 cavalry, and 24 pieces of artillery. Round Paris we find a similar accumulation of military force. There are eight batteries of artillery at Vincennes, one at Rambouillet, one at St. Germain, one at Compiègne, one at Melun, one at Fontainebleau, one at Meaux, &c., and regiments of infantry at Versailles, Ruel, Courbevoie, St. Denis, Vincennes, &c. This is nearly incredible; in less than twelve hours 35,000 men can be assembled on the Boulevards and quays, and in twenty-four hours upwards of 50,009. And this army, more numerous than the one with which Napoleon twice conquered Italy, is not deemed sufficient, but must still be increased!"

LORD NELSON AND THE DEY OF ALGIERS.—In 1804, the *Superb*, Capt. R. G. Keates, having previously paid a couple of unsuccessful visits to the Dey of Algiers, once more preceded Lord Nelson and his fleet, for the purpose of obtaining redress for certain grievances, the most crying of which was the release from slavery of some Maltese British subjects. His sable highness was somewhat slow in comprehending what a few stripes of bunting could have to do with the matter. Capt. Keates had, however, so timed his audience, that Lord Nelson, with his whole fleet, was at the moment opportunely in sight in the offing. When the Dey's *ette* encountered this somewhat unpleasant prospect he became unusually complaisant, and the slaves were immediately ordered to be given up to the *Superb's* boat, then lying in the mole. No sooner, however, had the half-assured prisoners been stored away, than the Algerine official discovered that two men more had been released than had been demanded. So soon as Sir Richard was made acquainted with the ground of dispute, he ordered the coxswain to seize the fly of the pendant so as to cover the entire boat, apprizing the Algerines that if any force were attempted, he (Capt. K.) would reland all the slaves, and leave the Dey to take the consequences. When his highness discovered how matters stood, he gave up the prisoners, modestly requesting that the Admiral might be informed, that a few pounds of gunpowder, as a ransom, would be highly acceptable; and with this singular message did Keates proceed alongside the *Victory*. Having made known the wishes of the Dey, Lord Nelson replied, "Tell him from me, Keates, that if I am to ransom with powder, it must be done after my own fashion, and with the usual accompaniments—shot and shell."

MILITARY EXPERIMENT.—It has very frequently happened, during great military operations, that the passage of rivers by bodies of troops has been found impossible at moments when it would have led to the most important results, owing to the roads leading up to their banks being unfit for wheel carriages over the points where it has been desired to cross. The carriages now in use for the conveyance of the pontoons or portable boats generally employed in constructing temporary military bridges are necessarily so large, and so heavy and cumbersome when loaded, as to require as many as eight or ten horses to each carriage, unless on the smoothest roads, and may be seen and heard from such a distance as to make it impossible to perform any movement with them concealed from an enemy watching, as is usual, the principal roads leading to rivers in their vicinity. On Monday morning an experiment was made by Col. Macintosh, on the Serpentine river, in presence of his Grace, the Duke of Wellington, Lord Hill, the General commanding in chief, Generals Lord Fitzroy Somerset, Sir George Murray, the Adjutant General, Sir John Macdonald, Sir J. Gardiner, and many other distinguished officers, which holds out the promise of the complete attainment of the object in view. Two pontoons, composed of very portable materials, supporting a wooden platform, (and although constituting only a small portion of a bridge, sufficient to judge of results from,) having been placed upon the water, as large a body of the Foot Guards as could stand upon the platform was directed to occupy it, amounting to upwards of forty men. The weight of this number of men may be calculated at about a ton more than that of a piece of heavy ordnance; but, as the pontoons were not immersed to quite half their depth, it is obvious that they could have supported a much greater weight. The raft thus formed was then towed out to some distance in the Serpentine, and, having returned to the shore and landed the men, was taken to pieces, and the pontoons and other materials disposed in such a way as to show their convenience for transport by animals without employing wheel-carriages. We are happy to say the illustrious Duke appeared to be in excellent health and spirits, and seemed to view the experiment with interest and approbation.

FRENCH FLEET IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.—The ship *Jena* sailed from Toulon on the 24th inst., for the Levant, on receipt of a telegraphic despatch from Paris. Five other ships of the line, the *Montebello*, of 120 guns, the *Jupiter*, of 80, the *Diadem*, of 80, the *Trident*, of 74, and the *Santi Petri*, of 80, were shortly to proceed for the same destination. The entire of the French naval forces in the Levant would, it was thought, be placed under the orders of Admiral Rosamel. The *Thetis* frigate was completely fitted out, and ready to receive her new commander, the Prince de Joinville, who was expected in Toulon the beginning of May.

The following is a statement of the present force of the French Mediterranean squadron, divided into two sections: Division of the Levant: ships of the line—*Hercule*, bearing Admiral Lalande's flag, at Smyrna; *Triton*, at Smyrna; *Santi Petri*, at Toulon, in quarantine; *Jena* and *Jupiter*, at Toulon; *Trident*, in Toulon harbor under repair; corvette *Favorite*, in the Levant; brigs *Palinure* and *Bougainville*, and the schooner *Messange*, in the Levant; total, ten. Division in reserve at Toulon: ships of the line, *Montebello*, *Genereaux*, and *Diademe*, frigate *Thetis*, corvettes *Diligence* and *Brillante*: total six. This last division is expected to be put under the command of Capt. Duval d'Ailly, of the *Montebello*. In a few months the squadron will probably be reinforced by the *Alger* and *Marengo*, which are now fitting out.

SIR THOMAS HARDY IN A STORM.—When Sir Thomas Hardy was in command of H. M. ship *Triumph*, one of the squadron of Sir Richard Strachan, so many of which were dismasted in a hurricane, in 1806, he saved his masts by striking his lower yards and topmasts. This is a course which many officers, unacquainted with its advantages, or the facility with which it may be achieved, even in the largest ships, would naturally shrink from. After the hurricane, Sir Richard Strachan, whose ship was disabled, hoisted his flag on board the *Triumph*, and a gale came on, almost equal in violence to the hurricane. Sir Thomas astonished the Admiral, who was a perfect sceptic as to the practicability of such a manœuvre, by getting all ready to strike lower yards as the gale increased. He allowed it to be done, however, and, as the gale moderated, expressed a wish to have the foresail set as soon as possible. The fore-yard was instantly swayed up, the sail let fall, reefed, and set almost as quickly as if it had been the fore-top-sail. Nor were these solitary instances; for we have heard Sir Thomas Hardy say, that he was in the constant practice of striking his lower yards and topmasts whenever the indications of the barometer and other circumstances transpired to give warning of a severe gale.—*Foreign Quarterly Review*.

RUSSIA.—*Extract of a letter from St. Petersburg, of the 9th April.*—"Every thing here breathes war; the Emperor, it is said, will go to Kiew, even before the marriage of the Duke de Lichtenberg, to review the army of the south, and to deliver the command of it to Marshal Paskevitch. General Witt is charged to negotiate with Prince Metternich for the rupture of Austria with England in case of a war in the east; and it is said that the Emperor has offered as an inducement to Austria, the incorporation of Servia, Bosnia, and the Montenegrin country with Hungary, taking for Russia, at the same time, Wallachia and Moldavia."

Extract of a letter from Odessa, dated April 8:—"The Black Sea fleet, composed of 30 ships, completely manned and equipped, has assembled in our roads, and to-morrow or the day after, under the command of Admiral Prince Gortschakof, will sail to join the division under Admiral Oumanetz, which has been three weeks off Sinope, watching the Bosphorus. This reinforcement is in consequence of dispatches from Admiral Oumanetz, announcing that intelligence had reached him that the English fleet which was at Tschesme, intended to take possession of the Dardanelles, as soon as hostilities should commence between Turkey and Egypt."

The rumor which has been prevalent during the last fortnight, in naval circles, of the intention of Ministers to send a demonstration fleet to the Baltic, turns out to be correct. It is to consist of TEN seventy-twos, to be commanded by Admiral GAGE, viz:—the *Bellisle*, *Benbow*, *Blenheim*, *Cornwallis*, *Hastings*, *Illustrious*, *Agincourt*, *Hawke*, *Edinburgh*, and a tenth, the name of which has not transpired. It would seem that information which has reached the Foreign office of the aggressive disposition which has recently been manifested by Russia, has led to this determination. Orders have, we are assured, been received, to countermand the apartments which were preparing, at Mivart's Hotel, for the reception of the Grand Duke of Russia. We learn also, that Count Nesselrode has been dismissed; that Count Orloff has superseded him, and that the war party in the Russian Cabinet are in the ascendant. Have these changes any thing to do with the organization of the above mentioned fleet?—*United Service Gazette*, April 20.

The British Admiralty have issued an order that seamen shall be supplied with tobacco at the reduced price of 1s. per pound.

WASHINGTON CITY ;
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1839.

FLORIDA WAR.—This prolific source of the expenditure of national treasure and valuable lives, of fatiguing marches and harassing skirmishes, where no laurels can be won, of sacrifice of all comfort to the army, and the theme of countless newspaper squibs, is at length terminated—to appearances at least. But who can count upon the faith of the wily Seminole and the treacherous Mickasukie? We might as well rely upon the stability of the wind. When it suits their purpose to violate the agreement, and they see a chance to do it with impunity, pretexts will not be wanting. A vigilant watch will no doubt, however, be kept upon all their movements, and if unprincipled whites can be restrained from intercourse with the Indians, the latter may remain peaceable.

We rejoice at the compact that has been entered into, inasmuch as it will afford to the army a respite from a toilsome and inglorious campaign. The Floridians, judging from the tone of their newspapers, do not approve of the armistice, or of any thing short of the unconditional removal of the Indians from the Territory. A Tallahassee paper commences and closes the order of General Macomb, issued at Fort King, with the words "shame !!! shame !!! shame !!!"

The Grand Jury for the counties of Alachua, Columbia, and Hillsborough, at the April term, 1839, presented the war as a nuisance, under seven distinct counts; and denounced the officers of the army for permitting the soldiers to waste and plunder the property of the citizens, for perpetrating on some of the citizens illegal assaults and batteries, and false imprisonment, and then shielding themselves under their commissions and the force under their commands. From this denunciation, the Grand Jury aforesaid specially exempt Capt. LLOYD J. BEALL of the 2d dragoons.

We do not know whether to take this presentment as an ebullition of spleen, or to attribute it to that impatience of character and spirit which cannot brook wholesome restraint. Ushered to the world under the solemnity of an oath, it carries more consequence than ordinary newspaper paragraphs.

Considering the services and sacrifices of the army, and the high-toned character of its officers, such presentments and denunciations are, to say the least, extremely ungrateful, and we have not the slightest doubt entirely undeserved. Men, who are regardless of their own rights, seldom infringe upon the rights of others. Bound by their orders, their commissions, and their oaths, to protect and defend the interests of their common country, they may, at times, in the discharge of an unpleasant duty, be forced to disregard private rights or interests to secure the general good; and when such occasions do

occur, we know enough of the character of our officers to warrant us in saying that mildness and forbearance temper the seeming discourtesy of the act.

SEA STEAMERS.—It is understood that the proceedings of the Board, lately in session at Washington, have been approved by the Navy Department, and orders issued to commence immediately the construction of two sea steam vessels of war—one at New York, and the other at Philadelphia. They are to be built upon the same model, and are intended to be as near alike as possible, with the exception of the engines. To test the comparative advantages of the two descriptions of engines adopted, one of the steamers is to be fitted with two inclined engines, of ten feet stroke; the other vessel to have two vertical engines of the same power, of seven feet stroke.

The dimensions of the hull are reported at:—

	Feet.	Inches.
Length between perpendiculars,	220	0
Moulded beam,	39	0
Depth of hold,	23	6
Tonnage, by custom-house measurement,	1,650	tons.

The "Notes on the military establishments of the United States," which we have copied from the United Service Journal, for May, are temperately and candidly written. They contain some trifling errors, arising, probably, from the early date of the documents referred to as authority. The author confines himself to a simple statement of facts, with little comment, and must have derived his information from official documents. It is not that they contain any thing new to our readers, that we extract these Notes, but to apprise those who have not access to the work itself, of what foreigners say and think of us.

The Revenue Cutter Crawford (formerly the Jefferson) having been repaired and refitted at Baltimore, was brought round to the District a few days ago to receive her armament. On Friday evening several gentlemen were invited to partake of a collation prepared on board, and were pleased with the neatness of her appearance, and the urbanity of her officers. The Crawford is to be stationed at Savannah, and the vicinity.

The Norfolk Herald asks why Fort Monroe was not selected for the Camp of Instruction, and claims in its behalf ample quarters, plenty of space, fine climate, cheap provisions, and the best living.

It may be sufficient to state that Fort Monroe has been for some time in charge of the Engineer Department, undergoing repairs, and the presence of a large body of troops would therefore have been inconvenient. As one of the objects in view in collecting the troops, was to accustom them to the duties of the camp, quarters were not needed. In all other respects, the site selected is believed to possess equal advantages with Fort Monroe.

There is an Admiral in the Russian Navy, whose name, (Gortschakof,) according to the English mode of pronunciation, sounds very much like Got-such-a-cough. The Philadelphians may enjoy their propensity to punning to their hearts' content.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—The publication of the article signed "Justice," deprecating the retention of the 3d regiment of artillery, in Florida, is rendered unnecessary, by the recent order, announced in the last Chronicle, directing this regiment to proceed to New York. "A Commissioned Officer," on the pay of the army, is unavoidably postponed until next week.

THE HORNET.—The New York Despatch has the following additional statement in reference to the supposed survivor of the Hornet:

"We are now indebted to our informant for farther particulars, and present them to the public as offering an opportunity to judge something of the probability or improbability of the statement made by us, that such a person still survives. The gentleman who gave us the material for the first paragraph is well known in Boston, and in this city; and to him we shall refer whoever may make personal application to us. He informs us that there was a slight error in our first paragraph. The Hornet, when struck by the hurricane, was driven near Cuba, and an effort had been made, but in vain, to gain the protection of a bay, or the lee of a point. The vessel struck on a rock and immediately sunk, with near 300 souls on board, and the few who escaped, (if any beside the man now in Illinois did escape,) were carried ashore by the surf among the rocks.

So far for the sailor's story. His name is John Davis Read: he is by birth a Scotchman, and on board the Hornet belonged to the carpenter's gang. If there was such a name on board the Hornet, it is to be found in the office of the Secretary of the Navy; to whom we shall cause to be forwarded a copy of this day's paper. Mr. Read has a farm near Belleville, St. Clair county, Illinois; but works occasionally at his trade over and about the Twelve Mile Prairie.

The gentleman to whom we are indebted for the information, tells us, that while in Illinois, he was for some months acquainted with Mr. Read—and and that he has *full confidence* in his statement. He says furthermore, that Mr. R. is well known in the section of the country in which he resides. The reason given by him for preserving silence upon the subject, is, as before stated, that his term of service had not expired, and he had no wish to complete it."

At our request, a careful examination has been made of the muster roll of the Hornet, for the whole of the year 1829, and there is not one among all the crew by the name of *Read*. There is no probability either, had this pretended sailor's story been true, that he would have been compelled to serve out his unexpired time, had he made himself known on his arrival in the United States. The love of the marvellous, so strong among seamen, and the absolute certainty of his being made much of, as the only survivor of the Hornet, are too strong inducements for any one to reveal himself, instead of keeping the secret locked up in his own bosom for years.

We repeat our conviction that the story is impossible; it is a sheer fabrication, made out of whole cloth.—*Ed. A. & N. C.*

MR. LEDGER: To whom should persons wishing to enter the West Point Academy apply, and what are the conditions on which they enter?

By answering the above, you will oblige

SEVERAL.

Application for admission to West Point must be made to the Secretary of War. The number of applications have been, for many years past, very great, particularly from the cities. The students admitted each year are selected from the various sections of the country; and it has been frequently alleged, and seldom denied, that the distribution of the privilege is a matter of *favoritism*. The first requisite, therefore, is *friends at court*. Without this, our inquiring friends may as well abandon the idea of sharing in the advantages of the institution. The qualifications strictly required are juvenility and capacity to pass through the preparatory examination in the ordinary branches of an English education. "The conditions on which they enter," are those to which officers in the army are subjected. The class at West Point is a portion of the army—viewed in any other light, the West Point institution would be unconstitutional—and, as members of the army, they are bound to yield obedience, and are punished with dismissal from the army, or even severer punishments, in case of misconduct. The discipline of West Point is very rigorous and wholesome, and the course of education highly eligible. The institution has, however, been waning in reputation for some years past.—*Philadelphia Ledger, June 5.*

We copy the above paragraph for the purpose of anticipating and correcting any misapprehension to which it might lead. We are not disposed to quarrel about words; but the term of "favoritism" is hardly the proper one to apply to the distribution of the cadet appointments. One cadet is allowed to each Congressional district of the United States, and when a vacancy occurs, it is generally filled on the *nomination of the Representative of that District in Congress*. We cannot conceive a fairer method than this of distributing the appointments, nor one less liable to the charge of favoritism.

The cadets allowed by law, over the number thus provided for, are selected by the Secretary of War from the descendants of those who have rendered distinguished service to their country, in a civil or military capacity; but this number is very limited.

With respect to the assertion contained in the last sentence, we are happy to assure the editor of the Ledger, and our readers, that from all we can gather, the Military Academy is at present as well conducted, and in as flourishing a state, as in its palmy days.

ARRIVALS AT WASHINGTON.

June 4—Lt. J. M. Scarritt, Corps Engrs.	Fuller's
Ass't. Sur. R. Archer, army,	do
6—Capt. John Page, 4th infy.	Polk's
Lt. A. S. Macomb, A. D. C.	Gen. M's
Capt. E. S. Winder, 2d Drags.	Polk's
Lt. S. Eastman, 1st infy.	Fuller's
Major J. L. Gardner, 4th arty.	Alexandria
10—Col. J. G. Totten, Corps Engrs.	

ARRIVALS AT PHILADELPHIA.

June 2, Purser H. W. Greene, S. B. Thompson, navy; Capt. E. D. Bullock, army. June 3, A. Murray, Lieuts. R. L. Page and T. W. Brent, navy. June 4, Captain T. Crabb, navy, and lady; Capt. J. P. Simonton, Dr. A. F. Suter, army. June 7, Lieuts. J. M. Scarritt, L. A. B. Walbach, Major M. M. Payne, army; J. J. B. Walbach, Dr. S. Moseley, navy.

Correspondence of the Army and Navy Chronicle.
FLORIDA WAR.

FORT KING, May 27, 1839.

The last fifteen or twenty days have been to us a season of much interest and speculation. The Florida war has been so often ended, that every step taken to effect a result so desirable, seemed to sink us still deeper in the mire, and caused us to look confidently for a more harassing and sanguinary continuance. But the occurrences of the last week leave no doubt but that the war is ended, and we at least have the prospect of being relieved from pursuing an enemy who can never be found or numbered but under a flag of truce.

Gen. MACOMB arrived at Garey's Ferry in April, and immediately issued orders to the army generally, of such a character as would be the means of opening a communication with the hostiles, and appointed the 1st of May for a general council at Fort King. All the friendly Indians and negroes were despatched into the interior with instructions to obtain an interview, if possible; but from the threats which had been from time to time received from them, there were but few who predicted a successful result. The most experienced officers in Florida were of this opinion. No Indian or white man would run the hazard of encountering them, as Sam Jones had sent in word, that any stranger who approached his camp, under any circumstances whatever, should be put to death.

Gen. MACOMB arrived here on the 30th April, but not an Indian was to be seen or heard of, and from the frequent depredations in different parts of the country, the prospect of a successful result was indeed gloomy. Gen. TAYLOR came soon after, completely discouraged. The friendly Indian who had been with him some six or eight months, instead of being the medium of communication with the hostiles, had joined them, taking with him all the friendly Indians at Tampa, and leaving word that Gen. MACOMB had come for the purpose of gathering them in under friendly assurances, seize them, and transport them to Arkansas, and that he and his friends were not to be deceived.

After this became known, every officer saw but a recurrence of those disheartening events which have characterised this protracted war from its very commencement. Gen. MACOMB, however, was not willing to abandon his object under these circumstances, and accordingly adopted every plan that could be devised to attain the desired end. Indian John, a friendly Indian, together with his women and children, received presents and provisions, and were directed to take themselves to the hammocks and swamps, and not return until he had had an interview with some of the hostiles. He returned after the lapse of a few days, bringing the intelligence that eight Mickasukie warriors were encamped within a mile of us, and the following morning would visit the camp.

Early in the morning these distinguished visitors were seen wending their way through the pine woods, towards our encampment, bearing a white flag, and headed by Har-lock-tustenugge, a Mickasukie chief. They were received by Gen. MACOMB with much form and ceremony, and with every mark of friendship and kindness. All of them were much embarrassed by the appearance of so many officers and soldiers in uniform, and it was not until they were told that they pertained to the rank of the Great Chief that was sent to talk to them, that they were at all satisfied. The appearance of these Indians was indeed interesting; some of them had had no intercourse with the whites for at least three years. The chief, Har-lock-tustenugge was a man about thirty years of age, well dressed, tall, commanding person, manly, prepossessing countenance, and an expressive and fluent speaker. The others were quite young, and remarkable for their hideous and repulsive faces, and their fine, well-proportioned, athletic persons, which were well displayed, they having no other garb than a rough buck-skin shirt. The General explained to them clearly and briefly the object of his visit among them, and if they were willing to comply with his demands the white and red man could once more be at peace. The country below Pease creek was shown to them upon the map, the boundary defined, and if they were disposed to go there and be at peace, and not cross the line, they should remain unmolested, for the time being; and that those Indians who were committing depredations along the frontiers, in the vicinity of Tallahassee, must be brought in without delay. If you are willing to accede to this, said Gen. MACOMB, we can again be friends; if not, the war must be continued. The chief evinced much pleasure, and expressed his willingness to comply with every demand. The Indians, he said, were scattered throughout the country, in parties of four and five, but he knew that so soon as those west of the Suwannee river heard what he should send to them, they would cease their depredations, come in immediately, and retire to the country assigned them. His young men he would send there without delay, requiring them to come in.

This chief and his companions left us the following morning, and eight days after encamped in our vicinity with upwards of a hundred souls. In the mean time Lieut. Col. HARNEY arrived from Key Biscayne with Chitto-tuste-nuggee, the principal chief of the Seminoles and Mickasukies. Sandy, a faithful black interpreter, after three days' search, accidentally discovered this Indian near the Everglades, returning from a fishing excursion. He immediately accosted him, when the chief asked him what he wanted there. "I suppose you have come with more lies." Sandy, however, related to him the instructions given to Col. HARNEY, by Gen. MACOMB, which he was induced to believe, and consented to accompany him to the fort.

Upon Chitto-tuste-nuggee's arrival at Fort Lauderdale, he obtained from Lt. Col. HARNEY a corroboration of all that had been told him by Sandy. He expressed his willingness to accompany Col. HARNEY to any point to meet Gen. MACOMB; but, before doing so, was desirous to return to his tribe and consult upon the acceptance of the terms offered them. After an absence of three days, he returned, bringing with him O-che-hadjo, a young chief who had been delegated by the tribe to witness his proceedings with the whites.

Sam Jones, from his age and inability to travel, declined coming; but desired his acquiescence in the terms proposed to be made known. This man, in the opinion of the Indians, has never been considered an important chief, and less so now than ever. The Mickasukies, of which tribe he is a chief, have heretofore occupied the northern portion of the Peninsula; but from the inroads made upon them by the troops, they have been obliged to retire south, cultivate and live upon land belonging to the Seminoles, who are by far more numerous. The Seminoles, finding this to be the case, and having an antipathy to this feeble but warlike nation, determined to bring them into subjection by insisting upon the election of a Seminole chief, who was to govern all; and, in the event of their refusal, compel them to leave their country. The Mickasukies, being reduced to this emergency, consented, and Chitto-tuste-nuggee was elected chief. He is about forty years of age—remarkably pleasant and affable when spoken to, but at other times very dignified and reserved. By his conversation and conduct in and out of council, he showed himself to be a man of much intelligence and observation. The Indians paid him great respect, and seemed gratified in having so able a counsellor.

The last council was held on the 22d inst.; both chiefs were present, together, with forty-five Seminole and Mickasukie warriors. Gen. MACOMB, upon this occasion, as upon all others, gave to it a degree of excitement and interest by adhering to imposing forms and ceremonies. Indeed, this is indispensable in all negotiations with Indians; for among the most degenerated these customs are retained from generation to generation, and attach to all that is said a degree of solemnity which they believe is gratefully received by the Great Spirit.

A large council chamber was erected, and the General and his staff, with all the officers at the post, in uniform, were escorted to the council by the band of the 7th infantry and a company of dragoons on foot. White flags were hoisted at different points; a fire was built in the centre of the chamber, around which the Indians were seated in profound silence; pipes and tobacco were given to them; and, amid a cloud of smoke, the Indians passed round, shaking hands with all present. The terms of peace were again fully explained to them: that they were to go below Pease creek and remain within the prescribed limits,

as shown by the black lines drawn upon the map, and be at peace. The 15th day of July next is the day agreed upon for them to be within the country for the present allotted them. Chitto-tuste-nuggee followed in a brief and sensible speech. He expressed, with great earnestness, the pleasure he derived in being once more friends; and his concurrence and that of his tribe in all that had been proposed. The most vigorous measures, he said, should be immediately adopted to bring in the straggling parties; and a complete removal should be effected, to the country assigned, without delay. He desired that posts might be established near their boundaries, to keep the whites from intruding upon them; and that a space of ground might be made between them—a neutral ground—upon which neither Indians nor white men should dare to venture. Har-lock-tuste-nuggee said: "he had but little to say—the chief who had preceded him had spoken the words of his own heart—the tomahawk and scalping-knife are now buried forever; and the Great Spirit knows our hearts are true. Six of my young men, who you see are not here, are gone west of the Suwannee river, and in the vicinity of Tallahassee, to carry the great talk. I know," said he, "that murders have been recently committed—it could not be otherwise, as those Indians have not yet heard the words of our great father. When they hear it, all will be peace, and our people shall immediately retire to the country designated.

When he had finished, Gen. MACOMB told them if any one present had any thing to say he was ready to hear them. They said they had nothing to say, their chiefs had spoken the words of their own hearts. The council broke up, after being in session about four hours. Every act and expression on the part of the Indians evinced the utmost sincerity and friendship. They attributed the war to the proper cause the aggression of the whites, and were willing to retire to any part of Florida to avoid those unfortunate collisions which have existed for so many years. The men were destitute of clothing other than a buckskin shirt; and the women and children were almost in a state of nudity. Those who had covering were wrapped up in old forage bags, picked up in the vicinity of abandoned posts; they were truly objects of commiseration.

The gathering in of the Indians and their removal is assigned to the commanding officers of the different posts throughout the country; and from the conduct of the Indians, and the discreet and judicious manner in which all things have been conducted, we have no doubt but that peace is (if the Government is so disposed) permanently restored. No deception has been practised; nothing has been disguised, and to Gen. MACOMB's candor and frankness, his generous attentions to their wants and wishes, and to his knowledge of their habits and manners, may be attributed his success in the present undertaking. He certainly deserves great credit for his untiring zeal and perseverance in overcoming the numerous and

discouraging circumstances which occurred from day to day; and the citizens of Florida, if actuated by any other motives than gain, should be grateful for his efforts in closing a war which is only distinguished for its cold-blooded murders—its drain upon the treasury of our country—and its filling the pockets of those who have done much, and may be expected to do more in contributing to its continuance.

The country which is for the present assigned to the Indians, is within a line commencing at the southern point of land between Charlotte harbor and Sanybel river; thence north up Pease creek to a line running due east, striking the head of Lake Istokpoga; thence to the Kissimmee river by Istokpoga creek, down the Kissimmee through Lake O-keechobee, directly south to Shark river, continuing to its mouth; and from thence to the place of beginning. This boundary gives them a country uninhabitable for any white man. The larger portion of it, most of the year, is completely inundated. There is some land, in the vicinity of Pease creek and the Kissimmee river, susceptible of cultivation; but elsewhere, that which is not overflowed is deep sand. By this arrangement the Indians are excluded from the Atlantic, to which they heretofore have had free access; and, like the Arabs, have robbed and destroyed all who have been so unfortunate as to be wrecked upon that coast.

The southern extremity of the peninsula is reserved, and is said to be good land, and desirable for the location of forts and light-houses. A chain of posts is to be established across the country, from Tampa Bay to Fort Mellon, leaving a space of country—a neutral ground—between the Indian boundary and the nearest post, of about fifty miles in breadth. Infantry and dragoons are to occupy the posts, and by placing there intelligent and judicious officers, who are acquainted with the Indian character, and with the disposition of the settlers resorting to such places for traffic and gain, we may look for much good resulting from the present arrangement. One thing must result from it: we can, within the coming six or nine months, obtain an intimate knowledge of their fastnesses; and if the Government persists in driving them from the country, merely to carry out the policy of emigration which is adopted, we can meet them upon more equal grounds, and PERHAPS succeed. But if the true policy be observed, that which is due to humanity and justice, and that which is demanded by our citizens, who are thickening upon our western frontier unprotected, they will be allowed to remain. Let loose such spirits as these in a country to which they must be taken by force, and the scenes which have been enacted here the last four years will bear no comparison with the bloody conflicts and murders which must ensue upon that border, where are assembled fifty thousand warriors, who only want a leader to give vent to a feeling which can never be subdued.

If the war is again commenced, the Indians will be driven from the Everglades, and the country will again be overrun by parties of four and five, who will be a terror to every settler and village. Let them go to the country to which they have gladly consented to go; and if they remain at peace, why disturb them? No man can crave it, but for its delightful climate; and let time accomplish that which the best blood and the coffers of our country have failed to do. We may talk of the triumph of the Indians, and of the prostration of the honor of our arms; this is all idle, and belongs to the crafty speculator, and the loafers who have been hanging upon our frontier from the commencement of the war, and who will now be reduced to the necessity of working for their daily bread.

The integrity of our Government is involved only when removing the Indians from a country which they have sold, and which can be cultivated by the whites. This has already been accomplished; and some magnanimity should be displayed towards an enemy who is willing to abandon the whole for a portion upon which no white man can live. It is impossible not to feel an interest in these people, who for four years have been contending for their homes. Florida is the land of their birth, but independent of this, there is no country in the world so peculiarly adapted to their wants and habits. Its climate, at all seasons of the year, is so mild that a single article of dress is sufficient for their comfort; the soil is fertile, producing spontaneously roots and vegetables enough to supply their wants; its rivers and ponds abound with fish and turtle; and in its hammocks and pine barrens game of every description can be found whenever they are disposed to hunt it.

This is the country they have been contending for, until they are now driven to a nook and corner, uninhabitable for civilized man; for which they come, as humble suppliants, to ask or receive peaceable possession.

The officers of the U. S. Army, now in Trenton, N. J., visited the Governor on Friday morning, in full dress, by invitation.

On Saturday, 1st inst., an altercation occurred at New Smyrna, between two privates of Capt. BRYANT's company, 2d dragoons, resulting in the death of private Kearns.

LETTERS ADVERTISED.

NORFOLK, June 1.

NAVY.—Captain F. A. Parker; Prof. J. T. Huston; Purser of U. S. schr. Shark; Mid. W. S. Swann, T. P. McFarland, J. S. Patterson, J. B. Carter, P. U. Murphy, F. M. Stanley, H. H. Harrison,

PASSENGERS.

NEW YORK, June 4, per ship Lafayette, from Charleston, Lt. E. C. Ross, of the army, lady and two children. June 7, per brig Odessa, from Madeira, Comm'r. John White, of the navy.

ST. AUGUSTINE, May 25, per steamer Santee, from Indian river, Lt. B. Poole, 3d arty. May 26, per steamer Santee, from Black creek, Col. Harney and Lt. Hardy, 2d dragoons.

MOBILE, May 23, per steamboat Merchant, from New Orleans, Capt. L. Rousseau, of the navy.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

SEA-WALL.—The investigation of expenditures, &c., upon the sea-wall, while under charge of F. L. DANCY, its late agent, commenced on Tuesday last, and closed on Wednesday evening. Captain J. K. F. MANSFIELD presided. We forbear at present all remarks upon the testimony and facts elicited. Capt. M. will make his report, and forward it with all testimony and papers to the Department. Capt. M. left here on Thursday last, for Savannah.—*St. Augustine News*, May 25.

TRENTON, N. J., June 7.—The troops at length have arrived, and the encampment is formed, the Florida war being certainly ended. Two companies arrived in the cars on Monday. On Wednesday morning a company of dragoons from Carlisle, in Pennsylvania, crossed the river above Trenton, and rode down through the city to the encampment. About 11 o'clock, several companies of artillery marched in from New Brunswick.

In addition to the above, four companies belonging to the same regiment, (4th artillery,) arrived this morning about 11 o'clock, and marched through town for the encampment. More will arrive at short intervals.

The encampment is on the side of the piece of woods near the race course. Its appearance already is interesting; and when the whole number expected shall have arrived and pitched their tents, it will be truly a "tented field."

The troops will be drilled four times a day, and will parade every evening, we are told. The commanding officer is Gen. Eustis.—*Slate Gazette*.

MILITARY.—A body of U. S. dragoons passed through our city on Saturday afternoon last, on their way to Trenton. They were well mounted, and accompanied by a brass band; a baggage wagon, drawn by four horses, brought up the rear. They numbered at least 60 or 70.—*Philadelphia Ledger*, June 10.

COURT OF INQUIRY.—We understand that the Court of Inquiry in relation to Commodore Elliott, which has been sitting for some weeks past at the Navy Yard in this place, adjourned yesterday until the 27th inst., at Commodore Elliott's request. It is believed that the evidence, which is very voluminous, is now closed, though further additions may perhaps be made when the Court meets again.—*Pennsylvania*, June 8.

FROM SOUTH AMERICA.—The barque Express, Capt. Goodhue, arrived at this port this morning; left at Montevideo, April 15th, U. S. ships Independence and Fairfield, the latter just returned from Buenos Ayres. Brigs Eliza Davidson, Mattison, and America, Roberts, for Philadelphia, sailed five days before. These two vessels were captured by a part of the French blockading squadron, and were released by order of the French Admiral, on demand of Commodore Nicolson and the American Consul. The blockade of Buenos Ayres was still kept up, and no prospect of its discontinuance.—*Boston Mercantile Journal*.

Capt. Ketchum, A. Q. M., U. S. Army, has established a post at Stiffanulgee Bluff, on the Apalachicola river, designated as Fort Yates. Two companies of Gadsden troops, under Capt. Hunter and Capt. Scott, have reported at the post and been mustered into the service of the United States. Capt. Hunter on the 25th ult., discovered the trail of the Indians from Smith's plantation; about 7 miles distant the Indians had collected, and broke open and pillaged a trunk belonging to Smith—many notes &c. were recovered. Capt. H. and command left on the 27th with provisions for a three days scout, in the neighborhood of the Tologee.—*Tallahassee Floridian*, June 1.

A detachment of 227 recruits for the U. S. garrisons on the Red and Arkansas rivers, arrived at New Orleans, on the 26th ult. in the ship Yazoo from New York.

Officers:—Capt. J. R. Smith 2d infantry, 1st Lieut. W. N. Grier, 1st dragoons, and Dr. J. M. Cuyler.

ENLISTED SOLDIERS.—The St. Louis Gazette states that a Surgeon in the U. S. army recently obtained permission to inquire of the members of a company of fifty-five, the reason of their enlistment. Every man was called upon to tell his own story; it appears that nine tenths enlisted on account of some female difficulty; thirteen of them had changed their names, and forty-three were either drunk, or partially so, at the time of their enlistment. Most of these were men of fine talents and learning, and about one-third had once been men in elevated stations in life. Four had been lawyers, three doctors, and twoministers.

GREAT SALE OF CORDAGE.—The U. S. Navy Agent at Charlestown, (Mass.) advertises ten entire gangs of standing rigging, (about 200 tons) for line of battle ships, to be sold at auction on the 18th inst.

EXAMINATION OF LAKE HARBORS.—An important commission from the topographical bureau at Washington is now sitting at Detroit, to carry into execution the law of Congress for an examination of the harbors of Lake Erie, &c. It consists of Lieut. Col. James Kearney of the United States Topographical Engineers; Col. Henry Smith, of Michigan; and Major John R. Bowes, of Ohio.

ARRIVAL OF AN IRON STEAMBOAT.—An experimental steamboat, built to run on the Delaware and Raritan canal, has just arrived in New York, from London, after a passage of forty-five days. The name of the vessel is the Robert F. Stockton, an iron schooner, fitted with Captain Ericson's patent engine, and commanded by Captain John R. Crane, an intrepid and skilful seaman. She came out under canvass, without the aid of steam. Her departure from London was looked upon as an act of great temerity in Captain Crane, whose success, however, has fully justified his reliance on his own skill and the capacity of his vessel to brave the storms of the Atlantic.

The Stockton is, we believe, the first vessel of this kind, ever seen in America. She is built entirely of iron, the pieces being rivetted together, is rated fifteen tons, and is seventy one feet long, while her breadth at midships is only ten feet. It was this disproportion which caused the voyage to be considered so hazardous. The steam engine is placed at the stern, which Captain Crane considers an advantageous mode of construction in steamboats intended for the open sea.—*New York Evening Post*.

ST. LOUIS, May 25.—The Steamer United States arrived yesterday from New Orleans. Among the passengers we note the following gentlemen, officers of the U. S. Army; Major Herran and lady, Gen. Wool, Major Noel, and Lieuts. Macomb, Todd, and Scarritt.—*Republican*.

THE U. S. BRIG BOXER.—A friend who has just received a letter from an officer on board the U. S. Brig Boxer, has furnished the following list of officers on board, at Callao, 13th Jan:—

W. C. Nicholson, Commander.
B. F. Shattuck, Master (doing 1st Lieut. duty.)
S. Forrest, Purser.
S. W. Kellogg, Assistant Surgeon.
J. H. Sherburne, Passed Midshipman.
W. B. Muse and C. Deas, Midshipmen.
C. Jones, Cleark.
Griffin, Gunner.—*Boston Times*.

NAVAL.—We have been furnished with the following extract of a letter, dated

U. S. SHIP FAIRFIELD, }
Monte Video, 20th March, 1839. }

Lieut. Purviance goes home on leave, and Mr. Mackenzie takes command of the Dolphin, which leaves Lieut. Tilton in command of this ship till the arrival of Capt. Boardman, who is now in Rio de Janeiro and will not arrive here for a month. I subjoin a list of the officers of this ship, which please have published for the information of their friends.

Officers of the U. S. ship Fairfield.

E. G. TILTON, Lieut. Commanding; O. S. Glisson, Lieut., S. Larkin, W. L. Herndon, act'g Lieuts.; J. Moorehead, Master; B. F. Bache, Surgeon; J. A. Guion, ass't Surgeon; A. J. Watson, Purser; N. G. Bay, R. L. Tilghman, P. Midshipmen; B. S. Gantt, J. W. Ripley, J. N. Morris, Midshipmen; J. Petty, Boatswain; G. Sirian, Gunner; W. Jordan, Carpenter; J. Heckle, Sailmaker. All well.

DOMESTIC MISCELLANY.

The policy of Congress has always been, as we are induced to believe, niggardly and injudicious in reference to seamen employed in the Government service. When the care taken of her sailors by Great Britain and the means used to foster her naval service are considered, and compared with the utter want of regard manifested towards persons of the same class by the United States, it is very difficult to account for the difference. Great Britain has, it is true, always placed her main reliance in her wooden walls for defence, and has therefore lavished her bounties on that branch of the public service; but we are at a loss to find in what respect the Navy of the United States is less important to this country. If England depends on her seamen for the protection of her shores and commerce, our own country has no less reason to do so. It may be said that as the only access to the English Islands is by sea, it becomes indispensable to keep always afloat a competent naval force. The United States, on the other hand, form a portion of a vast continent and are approachable by land as well as by water; but, taking all things into account, there is not the slightest apprehension to be entertained on our part of invasion by land, whereas our seaports are all exposed and our vast commerce in every quarter of the globe calls for the most ample protection. It is therefore, nothing more than right and proper that our notional marine should be placed on the best footing, as well in regard to the character and equipment of our ships as the moral qualifications of our men. We would therefore urge the adoption of every method to promote these two objects, but more especially the latter. As things stand at present, there is no inducement whatever to enter the Government service, and scarcely a day elapses that the want of good men is not most seriously felt. To remedy this evil we want in the first place such measures as shall induce sailors to enter the Navy, and in the second make them remain in it. By affording to youths an opportunity of becoming well educated, perhaps the strongest inducement would be presented to them to attach themselves to our naval establishment whilst the ability thus conferred to obtain speedy promotion would operate most powerfully in making them indentify themselves with it permanently. As Americans we feel an honest pride in the achievements of our Navy, and wish to see every measure adopted whereby its interests shall be advanced.—*Baltimore American*.

AN INTERESTING SCHOOL AT SEA.—The naval school on board the U. S. ship Ohio is well spoken of in a letter dated Mahon, March 30. The pupil

apprentices, 54 in number, are said to be well behaved, intelligent lads, who give every promise of becoming good seamen, perhaps officers. The writer adds:

They are under the exclusive charge of Lieut. Gansevoort, who takes great interest in them, as do, indeed, all the officers of the ship. The boys are divided into two watches, one watch attending school while the other is employed in the ordinary duties of the ship. They thus attend school every other day. Their schoolmaster, who, by the way, is very capable, having been a public teacher in the United States, reports favorably of their attention and improvement. They will, I think, obtain as good an education as boys generally get at our public schools.

They are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, navigation, and composition; some specimens of the latter, which have been shown to me, written by the elder boys, were really very creditable to the writers. They are allowed to go ashore on liberty as a reward for good conduct, and thus far but one or two have required any punishment. They have the free use of the ship's library, and most of them are very devoted readers.—*Newark, N. J., Daily Adv.*

A CHILD EDUCATED BY A MILITIA COMPANY.—Among the passengers for New York, by the ship Floridian, which sailed yesterday, is Miss ANNA WHEELER, the interesting élève of the Mobile Rifle Company. It will be in the recollection of many of our readers, that some years since, on the sudden death of Mr. Morris Wheeler, a popular member of that volunteer corps, his brother soldiers united in paying every public tribute of respect to his memory; and as a further substantial and abiding testimony of their esteem, undertook the charge of raising and educating his daughter, then a little child. That trust they have faithfully executed, and have provided ample funds for the increased expenditure required by advancing growth. The child, now an intelligent girl of ten or eleven years of age, has been sent to the north to receive, at the best schools there, every advantage of mental and moral cultivation, such as her liberal benefactors desire to bestow upon the orphan of their deceased friend. We are glad to be assured that this act of noble sensibility has been worthily bestowed, and that their protégé exhibits all the signs of a gentle and docile disposition, and the proofs of a superior capacity, which must gratify the hearts of her young protectors.—*Mobile Courier*.

A correspondent of the Savannah Republican makes the following statement of the distances and charges on the route of travel between that city and New York:

	Distances.	Passage.
From Savannah to Charleston,	95 miles	\$5 00
" Charleston to Wilmington,	165 "	10 00
" Wilmington to Weldon,	175 "	10 00
" Weldon to Portsmouth,	80 "	5 00
" Portsmouth to Baltimore,	180 "	8 00
" Baltimore to Philadelphia,	95 "	4 00
" Philadelphia to New York,	100 "	3 00
Total	890 miles.	\$45 00

FIRST ARKANSAS CARAVAN TO MEXICO.—About the 1st inst., a caravan with 40 men and 18 wagons, besides a number of mules, left Van Buren, in this State, fitted out by Messrs. PICKETT & GREGG, of that place, bound on a land voyage to Chihuahua, in the republic of Mexico, with an assorted stock of merchandise, principally dry goods. About 40 U. S. dragoons, under command of Lieut. BOWMAN, were to meet them at Camp Holmes, on the Canadian, 150 miles west of Fort Gibson, to escort the caravan a portion of its journey through the country of the wild Indians.—*Little Rock Gazette, May 15.*

ARMY.

OFFICIAL.

GEN. ORDERS, } ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
No. 30. } Washington, June 3, 1839.

I...The Major General commanding-in-chief, having observed that the dragoons, when serving as light infantry, practise the obsolete system of 1834, instead of the prescribed system of 1835, "*for Light Infantry and Rifle Skirmishes*," directs that the former be now discontinued. The "*Carbine Manual*," prescribed in General Orders, Jan. 4th, 1837, will not be changed.

II...Whenever the dragoons are dismounted and serve on foot, the established "*Rules for the exercise and manœuvres of the U. S. Infantry*," published by authority of the War Department, the 10th of April, 1835, will be strictly conformed to.

III...The Buglers, Drummers, and Fifers, belonging to companies not serving with their colours, must not be separated from their respective companies.

IV...When four or more companies are serving at the Headquarters of the Regiment, the privates allowed to act as musicians in the Regimental Band will be dropped from the rolls of absent companies, and be all mustered in the companies stationed with the colours.

BY ORDER OF MAJOR GENERAL MACOMB:
R. JONES, *Adj't Gen.*

GEN. ORDERS, } HEAD QUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
No. 5. } Fort King, May 19, 1839.

I...With a view to recruit the 2d regiment of dragoons, the following arrangement will be carried into effect as soon as possible.

Capt. Bryant's company, (A,) Capt. Fowler's, (H,) Capt. B. L. Beall's, (I,) and Capt. Winder's, (K,) will repair without delay to Garey's Ferry, where with Captains Bullock's and Howe's, (F, and G,) all will be dismounted except company K, commanded by Lieut. Darling, and their horses will be turned over for inspection by a Board of Dragoon Officers. Such as are found fit for cavalry service will be given in charge of an officer who will conduct them to Jefferson Barracks by easy marches,—company K, and its officers, being employed for that purpose. The remainder will be turned over to the Quartermaster's department. The five dismounted companies, with their officers, will then embark for Fort Hamilton, N. Y. harbor, where they will await further orders. All the company property will be taken with them, except the horse furniture, which will be packed and marked, designating the companies to which it belongs, and forwarded by water to the Quartermaster at Jefferson Barracks, for the 2d dragoons.

II...The principal Quartermasters at Garey's Ferry and Tampa Bay, will, with the approbation of the respective commanding officers, dispose of all horses, mules, and other cattle that may not be required for the public service, and reduce their respective establishments to correspond with the requirements of the public service, in order that there may be no unnecessary expenditures.

BY ORDER OF MAJOR GENERAL MACOMB:
ED. SCHRIVER, *A. A. Gen.*

APPOINTMENT.

First Lieut. J. H. Prentiss, 1st arty., to be Assistant Adjutant General, with the brevet rank of captain, May 24, 1839, and ordered to report to Major Gen. Scott.

SPECIAL ORDERS.

No. 39, June 8—Leave to 2d Lieut. R. H. Graham, 4th infy., extended three months.

Capt. S. Mackenzie, 2d arty., to be relieved by a 1st Lieut. of the 4th arty. from recruiting service, at Syracuse, N. Y., and to join his company.

Surgeon Randall, relieved from duty at Carlisle Barracks, and to report to the President of the Medical Board; after his examination, to repair to Garey's Ferry for duty.

A detachment of 86 recruits and 7 musicians left New York on the 4th inst., under charge of Capt. E. K. Smith, 5th infy., destined to Forts Howard and Brady, via Buffalo and the lakes.

48 recruits left New Orleans on the 11th May, to reinforce the 3d infy., at Fort Jesup, under charge of Lieut. W. H. Gordon.

Ordnance Department.—June 7—Capt. G. D. Ramsay, ordered to Camp Washington, as principal ordnance officer to the camp.

Mar. 9—Lieut. A. H. Dearborn, ordered to command, temporarily, of the Baton Rouge arsenal.

Medical Staff.—Ass't Surgeon Th. Henderson, at Fort Monroe, Va., and Ass't Surgeon J. B. Wells, at Washington, D. C., to proceed to New York and report to Surgeon T. G. Mower, President Medical Board of Examiners.

NAVY.

U. S. VESSELS OF WAR REPORTED.

BRAZIL SQUADRON—Razee Independence, Commo. Nicolson, and ship Fairfield, Lieut. Comd't. Tilton, at Montevideo, April 15, the latter just returned from Buenos Ayres. Comm'r. Boardman, has arrived at Rio Janeiro to take command of the Fairfield.

WEST INDIA SQUADRON—Frigate Macedonian, sloop of war Ontario, Vandalia, Levant, and Erie, lying off the city of Pensacola on the 1st inst. The sloop of war Natchez was at the Navy Yard, and would shortly sail for the north.

Ship Erie, Comm'r. Smoot, arrived at Pensacola on the evening of the 25th ult. from Tampico 8th, and Matamoros 10th ult. She left the Warren at the former port. Officers of the Erie:

Commander Jos. Smoot; Lieutenants, A. Lewis, J. A. Russ, J. F. Green, J. C. Walsh; Surgeon T. L. Smith; Master (act'g.) J. Mooney; Purser J. C. Holland; P. Mid. L. B. Avery; Ass't. Sur. J. W. Taylor; Midshipmen, J. H. Brown, J. J. Barry, I. G. Strain, Wm. H. Montgomery, N. C. Bryant, J. Mathews, Jr.; Prof. of Mathematics J. Nooney, Jr.; Captain's Clerk J. C. Clark; Boatswain T. Tyler; Sailmaker B. B. Burchsted; Gunner Wm. Craig; Ship's Steward Peter Walters.

Ship Warren, Comm'r. Spencer, off Tampico, the latter part of May.

Packet schr. Woodbury, Lieut. Comd't. Nicholas, arrived at New Orleans, May 30, from Tampico.

Frigate Constitution, spoken May 29, lat. 28, 51—lon. 70, 53.

MARRIAGES.

In this city, on the 6th inst., by the Rev. Mr. BEAN, Lieut. STEPHEN C. ROWAN, of the U. S. Navy, to Miss MARY B., daughter of the late Dr. ROBERT B. STARK, of Norfolk.

In Ogdensburgh, N. Y., on the 24th ult., Lieutenant GEORGE LINCOLN, of the 8th reg't U. S. infantry, to Miss NANCY HOARD.

DEATHS.

In the island of Cuba, on the 12th Oct. 1838, on the coffee estate Hermitta, GEORGE BROOKS; and on the 17th April, 1839, at Sagua la Grande, EDGAR BROOKS; the last, intending to rejoin his brother, whom he had not seen since their childhood, died the same day while preparing to embark for the United States. Both were brothers of HORACE BROOKS, 1st Lieut. 2d regiment of arty. U. S. A.

At Fort Monroe, on the 31st ult., HENRY SMITH, aged 4 years and 9 months, son of Dr. THOMAS HENDERSON, of the U. S. army.

JOHN SMITH--MERCHANT TAILOR
(LATE OF WEST POINT)

RESPECTFULLY begs leave to return thanks to Officers of the U. S. Army for their liberal patronage, and to inform them that he has changed his place of business to 163 Pearl Street, New York, where he hopes, from his long experience and unremitted exertions a continuation of their favors.

N. B. Orders forwarded with despatch. July 1—ly